



## Shields and Associates

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NSC REFERRAL NOT REQUIRED

September 26, 1963

The President  
 The White House  
 Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

In reading Max Freedman's column in the Los Angeles Times today, I could believe that much bickering and conflict existed between the State Department, Defense Department and the CIA concerning South Viet-Nam and other countries.

Later today I heard radio commentator William Winter, who openly accuses the CIA of setting policy and initiating practices which violate human dignity and defeat State Department political strategy. Further, Mr. Winter states the CIA actively engages in bringing about the downfall of heads of foreign governments who openly endeavor to break feudalistic powers through land reform, social movement, or even neutrality and compromise. The countries and geographical areas he named included among others, Iran, South Viet-Nam, Laos, the Caribbean, and Central America.

It seems incredulous to me that a department (CIA) of this government can create policy and initiate action which violates U. S. policy without covert approval of higher authority. It seems incredulous too, that the CIA should be completely autonomous to the extent that it need not coordinate its actions with other departments. Yet these are the accusations being made.

Is then the CIA a victim of repertorial sensationalism? Or could it be the scapegoat of the nation's mistakes, i.e., the Bay of Pigs? Or is it true that it acts autonomously, and within itself acts as a department of state and defense with the power and authority to make limited war, to compromise, and to decide who is the proper person to be the head of government of a foreign state, and what should be that nation's political, social and economic policies? I do not know, but it seems to me the citizens of this nation will want an answer to these questions.

Cordially,

Merl Shields

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

Central Intelligence Agency

Washington 25, D. C.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

23 OCT 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: Suggested Handling of Letters to  
White House re CIA

REFERENCE: White House Letters Forwarded to CFE (attached)

We suggest that the best way to handle these letters is for The White House to send brief notes to the writers, expressing appreciation for their interest and concern on a matter of national security. Along with this, we recommend a brief mention that the CIA is part of the White House team and inclusion with the letter of reply to each writer enclosure of the President's recent press statement concerning the Agency.



STAT

Chief, Far East Division

Attachment  
Ref Letters (2)

Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	Ch/FE Div		M
2	FG/CA		PK
3			
4			
5			
6			
ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY	
APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION	
COMMENT	FILE	RETURN	
CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE	

Remarks:

For your info and/or any action  
you deem appropriate.

1 to 2. Charlie, suggest we send  
similar answer to last letter.

FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER		
FROM: NAME ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.		DATE
	DCI	16 Oct 63
UNCLASSIFIED	CONFIDENTIAL	SECRET

FORM NO. 2-61

237 Use previous editions

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ILLEGIB

<b>TRANSMITTAL SLIP</b>		DATE 9 Dec 53
TO:	Mr. <span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; vertical-align: middle;"></span>	
ROOM NO. ER	BUILDING	
REMARKS:		
<p>These came in while I was in training - although they were forwarded to C/FE and others for comment - I do not think answers or other action is needed. Return to files.</p>		
FF <span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 300px; height: 40px; vertical-align: middle;"></span>		
ROO		EXTENSION